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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORTISHEAD.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR YEAR 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Portishead Urban District Council.

The Lodge,
Portishead.
8th August, 1947.

Gentlemen,

Dr. J.E.McCormick, who was Medical Officer of Health for this District, died on the 22nd. January, 1947 and I assumed duties in February, 1947. From the statistics and notes available, I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1946:-

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1. General Statistics.

Population 4,322.
Area 911 acres.
Penny Rate £122. 15. 2d.

2. Birth and Death Rate.

	Portishead.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate.	21.4	19.1 per 1,000.
Death Rate.	12.5	11.5 per 1,000.

3. Maternal and Infant Mortality.
Maternal Deaths 1 (premature birth).
Infants under 1 year. One.

4. Notifiable Infectious Diseases.
Dysentery 1.
Pneumonia 8.
Whooping Cough 4.
Puerpural Pyrexia 1.
Diphtheria 1.

There were no deaths.

5. Tuberculosis.

Cases notified. Respiratory - 1.

6. Infant Welfare. Under the capable supervision of the Superintendent, Miss Janson, this Welfare is working smoothly and well. The Medical Officer and nurses attend fortnightly. Between 30 and 40 infants are seen at each attendance.

7. Nursing. District and Midwifery nursing is carried out by two Queens' Nurses. The Nursing Association is a voluntary one and deserves the support of all residents.

The First Aid Post has been established in new quarters which are excellently fitted up. Great praise is due to the voluntary staff who are on duty every day and do splendid work in attending casualties, dressings and minor operations.

8. Ambulance. The St.John Ambulance Brigade give an excellent and prompt service.

9. Immunisation against Diphtheria. This is certainly nothing to be proud of in Portishead. Out of a total of nearly 900 children under 15 years of age only 325 have been immunised. Parents ought to realize their responsibility in this connection and see their children are done at an early age. Also it is not generally appreciated that a child who has been immunised at infancy ought to have a further dose at the age of 4 or 5 to be safe from infection. Publicity posters as issued by the Ministry of Health are being used in connection with this matter.

10. Air Pollution. The grit from the Generating Station continues to be a source of trouble. A large number of people have suffered from conjunctiritis due to grit lodging in the eye. There is probably a long term effect on the lungs also. A lot has been said but little done to alleviate this nuisance.

11. Water Supply. I think we must have the hardest water in England being 65°. However, this is more a financial than a health consideration. Although the water deposits lime in the mains and service pipes which become furred, and in the kettles and hot water boilers causing great expense to householders and owners, I do not believe it is injurious to health. Bacteriologically it is pure. A Ministry of Health inquiry was held in 1946 to consider a new source of supply by bore hole. This has been approved and doubtless in due time will materialise.

12. Housing. The shortage of houses in Portishead is still acute. This is partly ue to the influx of workers at the Bristol Corporation Electricity Generating Station. Overcrowding is bad and in many cases the health of families is suffering. Four hundred houses will be necessary to relieve the conjestion and to replace houses which are to be condemned when the time has come to proceed with this work, when materials are in a more plentiful supply than at present. The Council during the year have had supplied 20 Aluminium houses all of which are occupied and are erected in Channel View.

A scheme of 40 permanent houses in Burlington Road was commenced and during the year 10 were occupied (To the end of July,1947, 34 are occupied). A further scheme at the West Hill Site is now with the Ministry for approval. Seventeed houses have been requisitioned by the Council and accommodation has been provided therein for 31 families. In addition 7 families have been accommodated in converted huts at the Battery Grounds.

13. Milk.

Total number of Registered Dairy Farms.	8.
Number of Retailers.	6.
Number of Licensed Pasteurising plants.	Nil.
Number of heat treatment plants. c	Nil.

Samples of milk tested have been satisfactory.

14. Slaughter Houses.

Number of Licensed Slaughter Houses in District.	One.
Number of Registered Slaughter Houses in District.	One.

These have not been in use since the war as the meat is conveyed to Portishead from Weston-Super-Mare already slaughtered.

15. Sewerage. The shone ejectors at the low level Pumping Station at Bristol Road are being replaced by two electric pumps. Sewage from the low level is raised to the high level into Slade Road for gravity discharge to the outfall. No extension contemplated with the exception of sewers for the Burlington Road and other Housing Sites. The provision of a sewer to drain the houses at the West End of the District, Nore Road, and Redcliffe Bay/end should be borne in mind as these houses are all on cesspools and should be connected to the sewerage system as soon as possible. The sewerage of the District is on the separate system, surface water being conveyed to streams.

16. River Pollution. Sewage, untreated, is discharged into the tidal Severn Estuary.

17. Surface Water Drainage. The ditch running from Welly Bottom and receiving surface water from Church Road area in addition, which runs by way of the Church of England School, High Street, is badly overgrown from the School to Bristol Road and requires clearing to relieve the water which is back-flooding the lower area of the Town. Application has been made to the Catchment Board to place the area under their control.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

D.W.Bruce.

Medical Officer of Health.